

## **Errata to the Shasta Agness Biological Assessment**

The purpose of this errata is to address a change in the effects determination for Marbled Murrelet for the Shasta Agness Project. In addition, this errata addresses the impacts of the Klondike fire to Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) habitat within the Shasta Agness Action Area (Action Area), NSO sites within the Shasta Agness Action Area, watersheds partially or wholly within the Action Area and Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) Critical Habitat Units (CHUs), Marbled Murrelet suitable habitat and murrelet CHUs which overlap the Action Area.

### **Change in effects determination for Marbled Murrelet**

Upon further consideration and discussion with the Fish and Wildlife Service of potential impacts to marbled murrelet from the Shasta Agness project, and discussion with the Fish and Wildlife Service, it has been determined that the Project may affect, and is likely to adversely affect marbled murrelet. This determination was reached because although project design criteria (PDC's) would preclude cutting of suitable nest trees during project implementation, trees more than one-half of a site potential tree height (175 feet) within one-half mile of suitable habitat would be removed, thus adversely affecting the physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species. The removal, modification, or fragmentation of forested areas can directly impact nesting structures, nesting substrate, and the vertical and horizontal cover provided by the surrounding forest. Fragmentation of forested areas can result in habitat isolation and increased edge, which can negatively impact the quality of the remaining nesting habitat primarily through increased predation, modification of the microclimate, and potential windthrow of nest trees. Because the Project is located in marbled murrelet survey area B and therefore has a low likelihood of murrelets nesting, there is a low likelihood of murrelets being affected. However, this likelihood is not discountable.

The option of buffering any potentially suitable murrelet nest trees was discussed with the District forester who is the lead for the Project and it was determined not to be feasible and still meet the purpose of the Project. As a result, the District opted to modify the determination in the BA to maintain the flexibility to meet project objectives while remaining in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

### **Changes to Baseline as a result of the Klondike Fire**

#### **Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) habitat within the Shasta Agness Action Area (Action Area)**

Within the Action Area, 1 acre of NRF and 2 acres of dispersal habitat were lost with a corresponding gain of 3 acres of capable habitat, all within the Lawson Creek watershed.

#### **Dispersal habitat conditions for NSO by fifth-field watersheds impacted by the Project**

Three acres of habitat were affected by the Klondike fire in the Lawson Creek watershed as described above. The Shasta Costa Creek and Stair Creek watersheds were not affected.

#### **Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) Critical Habitat Units**

Habitat changes within the Klamath West Critical Habitat Unit (CHU-09) sub-units 2 and 3 (hereafter KLV-2 and KLV-3) are shown in the table below. Relative to the table in the Biological Assessment, these acreages reflect both the 2017 Chetco Bar fire and the 2018 Klondike and Taylor fires.

**Spotted owl critical habitat baseline acres for 9-KLW-2 and 9-KLW-3 Post 2017 (Chetco Bar) and 2018 fires (Klondike/Taylor).**

CHU/Subunit	Total Acres	NRF (% total)	Dispersal-Only (% total)	All Dispersal (% total)	Capable or Non-Habitat
9-KLW-2	149,965	64,694 (43%)	35,067 (24%)	100,031 (67%)	49,934 (33%)
9-KLW-3	143,862	67,222 (47%)	35,706 (25%)	102,928 (72%)	40,934 (28%)

**Marbled Murrelet CHU's which overlap the Action Area.**

Within Marble Murrelet CHU OR-07-f, 11 acres of suitable habitat were lost. Suitable habitat within CHU subunits and 07-a and 07-b were not affected by the fire.

**Conclusion regarding fire effects**

Due to the small amount of habitat within the action area affected by the Klondike fire, the determinations in the Shasta Agness Biological Assessment are not changed due to fire effects.